

October 22nd, 1918.

II American Corps

Now that the American Corps has come out of the line for a well-earned period of rest and training, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the gallantry and the fine soldierly spirit they have displayed throughout the recent hard fighting.

The breaking of the great **Hindenburg** System of defense, coupled with the capture of **Brancourt**, **Busigny** and **St. Souplet**, and finally the forcing of the passages of the **Selle** river constitute a series of victories of which each officer, N. C. O. and man has every reason to feel proud.

The Corps has been very well supported by the artillery of the Australian Corps, to whom I desire to offer my best thanks for their skill and endurance during the long months they have now been in action.

The efficiency with which the staff work of the Corps has been carried out on this their first experience as a fighting Corps in the line of battle has filled me with admiration, and I attribute it largely to the zeal and unity of purpose which has throughout animated the whole Corps.

The outstanding feature of their recent victories has been the surpassing gallantry and self-sacrifice of the regimental officers and men. I congratulate them on their prowess and offer them one and all my warmest thanks for the leading part they have taken in the recent operations.

It is possible now to give the Corps a period of rest, during which special attention should be paid to the training of the smaller units in minor tactics, such as the attack of strong points and machine gun nests. The experience they have had of actual combat will assist them to improve their fighting efficiency in this respect.

In thanking the Corps as a whole for the great services they have rendered to the Allied cause, I desire to wish all ranks the best good fortune in the future.

RAWLINSON,

Commanding 4th British Army.